




MEMO

TO: North Dakota Laboratory Directors
North Dakota Clinic and Infection Control Managers
North Dakota Healthcare Providers

FROM: Michelle Feist
Influenza Surveillance Coordinator 

RE: Influenza Surveillance and Culture Identification

DATE: November 17, 2005

The NDDoH is requesting your assistance in identifying which influenza strain is circulating in your community. If you have a patient who tests positive via a rapid test, DFA or IFA, the NDDoH is asking that a specimen be submitted to the North Dakota Public Health Laboratory (NDPHL) for viral isolation in order to help identify type and strain.

In an effort to track the number of samples coming into the laboratory, please call Michelle Feist for a Disease Control ID number **prior to shipping your influenza samples**. All influenza samples with a valid Disease Control ID number will be tested at no charge to a select number of patients until influenza is confirmed in your community. Two specimens should be submitted within the first 72 hours of illness. If specimen collection supplies are not available, the NDDoH will provide specimen collection supplies and a shipping container.

Please call Michelle Feist at 800.472.2180 or 701.328.3177 for your Disease Control ID number or with any other questions or concerns.